



News Release

North Dakota District Office

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Contact: Sheri Weston, (701)239-5131x.210

Release Number: ND-05-18

E-mail Address: sheri.weston@sba.gov

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/nd/news.html>

Underwood Business to Receive SBA Award in Washington, D.C.

*SBA Administrator's Award for Excellence goes to
Coal Creek Construction*

FARGO – Coal Creek Construction will be honored with the *Administrator's Award for Excellence* during its *SBA Expo '05: Celebrating National Small Business Week* in Washington, D.C. on April 26 – 28th.

The award recognizes small businesses that have provided the government with outstanding goods and services as a prime contractor. Coal Creek Construction was nominated for an award by Cheryl Jones from the Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Region, in Billings, Montana.

“We were very pleased to nominate Coal Creek Construction and congratulate them for earning the SBA Administrators Award of Excellence. Denny Portra and his staff have provided excellent products and services to the Western Area Power Administration since 2001. The firm's technical expertise, absolute dependability, and communications with our staff at every juncture during contract performance, has ensured timely completion of each project. It has always been a pleasure working with them!” said Jones.

Dennis Portra began Coal Creek Construction in 1980 with an \$80,000 loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Coal Creek Construction specializes in the construction of power distribution systems, substations, exterior lighting and general electrical contracts.

SBA Expo '05 is an annual celebration of National Small Business Week which will feature special events, including award ceremonies honoring the nation's top entrepreneurs and state and national small business winners. This year, five North Dakota businesses will be honored by the SBA.

C.S. DuBois Construction, Inc. of Fargo and JoAnne Johnson Contracting, LLC, of Minot, will also be honored with the *Administrator's Award for Excellence* recognizing their outstanding work as prime contractors.

J & G Landscaping, Inc. of Emerado will be honored as SBA's *Region VIII Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year* and will compete with nine other Regional winners for the national Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year award. Region VIII includes the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Jon Swegarden and John Lund, of Precision Diagnostic Services, Inc. in Fargo, will be honored as SBA's *2005 North Dakota Small Business Persons of the Year* and will compete for the national Small Business Person of the Year award.

For more than 40 years, National Small Business Week has recognized outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to our nation's economy. Each year since 1963, the President has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of Small Business Week.

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